

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 24th June 1905.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 12th June writes as follows:—

DAILY HITAVADI,
June 12th, 1905.

What Japan will do next.

The idea has taken firm hold of the minds of Europeans that the extraordinary rise of Japan marks the end of European rule in Asia. The spell which Europeans had, with great effort and difficulty, cast over Asiatics has been broken by Japan. We do not know what are the sentiments which now sway the minds of the Eastern Powers. But there is no doubt that the throbbings of a new life have become perceptible among the Eastern nations, else the Amir of Afghanistan would not have received the title of "His Majesty" so easily.

No wonder that the weakness of China, the fallen condition of India, and the decline of Korea should arouse sympathy in the hearts of the Japanese in favour of those countries. It is this which has struck terror into the hearts of all Westerners. Even now some of them are discussing whether Japan would conquer India and, with the help of China, conquer all Europe also. Where there is guilt, there is fear. The rise of the Japanese has disturbed the Europeans, because they know that they are guilty. But however powerful Japan may be, she has no intention to create disturbance without any cause. Everyone knows how calmly Japan had worked for an amicable settlement with Russia before the present war began. We cannot therefore praise the intelligence or power of imagination of those who fear that Japan will attack Europe. No power can give independence to a nation unless that nation itself makes an effort for it. The Indians, therefore, never entertain the idea that Japan will make them free. But they expect that she will help them in the development of their arts and industries. If Englishmen keep the promises which they have given to the Indians and rule them with justice, they have nothing to fear for India. But it is a matter of deep regret that, blinded by vanity, the authorities in India rule the country with an eye to the interests of English merchants only, and that this has led the Indians to view the Englishman's sense of justice with suspicion.

2. The *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 16th June, in discussing the question as to the success or failure of Sir Louis Dane's Kabul

SOLTAN,
June 16th, 1905.

The Kabul Mission.

Mission, observes that no weight should be attached to the opinion of those who believe that the simple renewal of the old treaty is an inadequate result of a prolonged five months' visit at Kabul. Is it not enough for the Indian Government if the present Amir faithfully acts up to the treaty made with the late Amir? The fact is, sincere unity between the Afghan and Indian Governments is extremely desirable. What is desired is that Russia might gain no sympathy or assistance from the Amir, but that rather the Amir might be ready to resist all Russian designs on India. Rumours of all sorts had gained currency about the present Amir's doings and policy ever since His Majesty came to the throne on the death of the late Amir. It had become an absolute necessity for a mission to go to Kabul if only to test the truth or otherwise of these rumours. It had also become necessary to verify if the reigning Amir felt himself bound by the treaty made with his predecessor. The mission has come back satisfied as to the Amir's present doings and his future policy, and for this alone it must be held to have been a success. The concession of the title of "His Majesty" has necessarily pleased the Amir and made him a stauncher friend than ever of the British Government.

3. In noticing the title of "His Majesty" accorded to the Amir of Afghanistan in the recent treaty with Sir Louis

SOLTAN.

The Amir of Afghanistan.

Dane, the same paper writes:—

We trust that now, not in name only, but in his acts also, the Amir will preserve the status of a first-class sovereign. The Afghan kingdom is now in the enjoyment of peace, progress and great strength. If Russia really invades India and if Afghanistan stands by the British Government, then it is certain that Russia will have to turn tail and flee. But it behoves the British Government to assist the Amir in becoming more powerful than he already is. Beluchistan is a territory which is not specially profitable to the British Government, and the cession of a portion of it to the Amir might make His

Majesty strong in one respect. It will set the British Government considerably at ease as to any future Russian designs on India by way of Persia. It is the bounden duty of the British Government to give Afghanistan an opportunity of becoming a naval power.

BHARAT MITRA,
June 17th, 1905.

4. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 17th June has a long article on the yellow peril, in which it says that a man is never afraid of losing what he has legally acquired, but is in constant fear of being deprived of what he has wrongfully acquired and misappropriated. This explains the Englishman's fear of Russia with respect to India.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKADDAS HABLUL MATEEN,
June 19th, 1905.

5. A correspondent of the *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 19th June writes as follows:—

The land lying on the western shore of the Persian Gulf has completely come under the suzerainty of the Government of India. It is for this purpose that Lord Curzon made his Gulf tour. Bahrein also is now under the Government of India's influence. They now wish to establish the same influence in Persia, but this they cannot do without quarrelling with Russia. The sole object of the latter is to secure a naval base in the Persian Gulf, so that it may check the increasing influence of England in Persia.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKADDAS HABLUL MATEEN

6. The same paper has the following:—
Political gossip. After the termination of the Russo-Japanese war the question of Central Asia will come up for discussion once more. England, who has hitherto adopted no aggressive measure in that direction for fear of Russia, will consider the present weakness of the latter on account of her ill-success in the Far East as a fair opportunity for carrying out her design in that part of Asia. The Seistan Commission, the Viceroy's Gulf tour, the extension of Lord Curzon's term of office, the Afghan Mission, the Commercial Mission to Persia, and the renewal of the Beluchistan boundary question, are all the outcome of the Central Asian question. If Russia had not been involved in her present struggle in the Far East, England could not have succeeded in carrying out her plans as sketched above. The renewal of the former treaty with Afghanistan has assured the Government of the good faith of its people, and will deter Russia from venturing to invade India without first declaring war against England. It is an admitted fact that England does not fear Afghanistan: what she fears is that the Afghans may form an alliance with Russia or Persia. The present war has, however, made Russia too weak to take any hostile action against England, while Persia is through her lethargy already within a cage, as it were, of the foreign hunter.

A Russian paper says that the English in matters political play the part of jugglers. They are well-skilled not only in pleasing inexperienced young princes, but make them thankful by conferring on them long-sounding titles. The conferring of the title of a King on the Amir of Afghanistan is of this kind. When His Majesty has no power to form political and commercial relations with any Power other than England, the title has no meaning at all. It was better for him to try to obtain that right instead of accepting the title.

Commenting on this, the paper continues:—

Next to the United States of America, England is more kind to her feudal vassals than any other European Power. Let us compare Afghanistan, which is under British protection, with the khanates of Central Asia, such as Bokhara and Khiva, which are under the protection of Russia. We see the ruler of Afghanistan has now been made a King, whereas the rulers of Bokhara and Khiva have lost the title of Amir. England pays a subsidy to the Amir, while Russia exacts a tribute from its vassals. The power of the Afghan Chief is restricted in dealing with foreign Powers only, while the Chiefs of Bokhara and Khiva have no independence even in the administration of their internal affairs. Persia has lost many opportunities. During her war with Russia we failed to form an alliance with Napoleon Bonaparte on account of a treaty then existing with England, and containing certain terms which the latter had made with no intention of fulfilling them, otherwise we would be in possession of Circassia, Transoxonia, Afghanistan and the Punjab, and be one of the civilized nations of the world under French protectorate. Another

unfortunate moment was when after the conquest of Herat and the appearance of an English fleet in the Persian Gulf, we signed a treaty in Paris by which we gave up our claims upon Afghanistan. If instead of making a treaty, we had advanced towards India, England would have been compelled to accept our terms, or at least to confirm the agreement which Nader Shah had made with Muhammad Shah with respect to the Indian frontier. As the Sepoy Mutiny was raging in India at that time, we could with our thirty thousand troops have put the English to rout. The natives would have welcomed our presence on such an occasion instead of standing against us.

Before the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese war it was said that Russia would appropriate Persia without having recourse to arms. England, therefore, tried her best to frustrate Russia's forward movement. England is now trying her best to establish her political and commercial supremacy in that country. She has made various attempts to gain her object, but finding herself unsuccessful in every one of them, she has now set the *Babis*, i.e., the anarchists and the Armenians, against the Government of Persia. They know when to spend large sums of money to gain their end. It is said that what Persia should do, is to make a commercial treaty with Japan and arrange for the appointment of representatives at the capitals of the two kingdoms, to substitute Japanese for Europeans in the service of the State, and to reform all Government departments after the model of the Japanese. It also ought to stop the practice of sending its students to the European Universities, because they have been seen to contract European vices, and returning home, they turn enemies of their country, their religion, and their nationality, and at last become swindlers.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

7. A correspondent of the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 17th June says that on the night of the 2nd idem, a fearful dacoity was committed in the house of one Laksman Chandra Medda in the Pahlampur village under the Rayna thana in the Burdwan district. Lakshman was not at home on that night. The dacoits first entered into the house by leaping over a wall. They had torches and *lathis* with them. A servant of the house managed to get out of it and arouse the villagers, who surrounded the house, but were kept in check by the *lathis* of the dacoits. In the scuffle, however, one Kenaram Medda, Lakshman's uncle, was severely wounded. When the dacoits left the house with their booty the villagers pursued them. A fierce fight ensued, in which one of the dacoits was speared and killed. The other dacoits then fled away. The case is now under police investigation. All the dacoits were Bengalis. The articles carried off were a watch, a chain, a number of documents, and some gold and silver, the value of the booty being Rs. 400 in all. The dacoit who was killed has not yet been identified. Some people are saying that he belongs to a band of *lathials* living in the Batanal village.

BANGAVASI,
June 17th, 1905.

8. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 18th June says that on the 23rd May last, Julfu Molla, son of Munshi Molla, an inhabitant of the Charkanda village within the Mahamudpur union under the Nababganj thana in the Dacca district, died of snake-bite. The president of the union certified that the dead body need not be taken to the thana. But the police compelled Munshi Molla to carry it there over a distance of six miles. None but those who have personal experience of similar occurrences can form an idea of the sufferings of the bereaved father at that time. Besides that, the police did not forget to cut jokes with the president and Munshi Molla over the matter. It is earnestly prayed that a rule should be made to the effect that dead bodies of persons dying of suicide or snake-bite need not be taken to police-stations for inspection, but that the presidents of unions should do the inspection in such cases. The attention of Mr. Savage, the author of panchayati unions, is drawn to the matter.

DACCA PRAKASH,
June 18th 1905.

DACCA PRAKASH,
June 18th, 1905.

9. A correspondent of the same paper says that about three years ago, one Adu Shaikh was charged with having enticed away the wife of one Raj Mohan Das, an inhabitant of the Harischandi village under the Nababganj thana in the Dacca district. The police, however, failed to find out the woman, and the accused Adu was consequently discharged by Babu Giris Chandra Datta, Deputy Magistrate. But since two months past, the woman is living with Adu in his house, and Adu is trying to marry her under the *nika* system. What is the police doing now? The poverty of Raj Mohan prevents him from taking the initiative in bringing the culprit to justice.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
June 21st, 1905.

10. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 21st June reports that on the night of the 6th June last, a party of dacoits, numbering about a dozen, fell on the house of one Babu Ram Chandra Chakravarti, a well-to-do mukhtar, of village Lalpur, in thana Garhbeta. Some of the neighbours responded to Ram Babu's wife's cries for assistance, but none of them dared face the dacoits, who looted everything at their leisure and then decamped. It is further reported that thefts are of constant occurrence in these parts, and the local public are in constant dread of them.

A correspondent of the same paper complains that no less than 20 or 25 thefts have occurred in the course of the last two years in the village Malancha, about five miles distant from Kharagpur thana, none of which have been traced home to the guilty parties. Four or five cases of house-breaking occurred in the course of three or four months, and all remain yet undetected. The villagers have on two or three occasions prepared lists of the bad characters of the locality and submitted them to the thana authorities.

The same paper publishes another letter complaining that cases of arson have become increasingly frequent in the villages under the jurisdiction of the Ramnagar thana, and that cases of house-breaking are also occurring. And petty thefts of fruits like water-melons and mangoes are matters of daily occurrence. The arson cases were repeatedly brought to the notice of the thana police, but as yet without avail. It is suspected that the parties guilty of these arson cases are the members of the gang resident in the Tikra mauza, Birkul pargana, who some three years ago were convicted by the Deputy Magistrate, Nanda Lal Bagchi, under section 110, but who have since come out of prison on the expiry of their sentences.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
June 15th, 1905.

11. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 15th June says that the oppressions of young civilians are one of the many evils from which the Indians constantly suffer. Large and almost unbounded powers are vested in them and they misuse them at every step. A boy civilian is now posted in Krishnagar as Assistant Magistrate. He has perhaps got some derangement in his brain. He cannot bear sound at all. He has therefore ordered that no carriage should pass by the road behind his court-room. This causes great inconvenience to the local mukhtars, who have to walk a long distance from their carriages in order to attend the Court. Again, the *sahib* has ordered that none should pass by the verandah of the Court. The attention of the Lieutenant-Governor is drawn to the matter.

HITAVARTA,
June 18th, 1905.

12. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 18th June is sorry to see that the third Presidency Magistrate keeps the doors of his Court shut at a time when it is understood to be sitting, and a constable is posted there who allows only barristers and pleaders to enter his court-room. But we ask, under what law does he disallow the public entering his court-room?

(d)—Education.

SANJIVANI,
June 15th, 1905.

13. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 15th June heartily supports the proposal of the Government to make education compulsory among the sons of the encumbered zamindars of Chota Nagpur. In most cases sons of zamindars move in bad company and give up their studies when they are mere boys.

Under these circumstances there can be no harm in using compulsion for the purpose of giving them the benefits of education.

14. The same paper supports the Government's proposal to remove the Presidency College, Calcutta, to the canal side near Tala. Land is cheap in that part of the town and can be had in plenty for all purposes of the College.

SANJIVANI,
June 15th, 1905.

The proposed removal of the
Presidency College to Tala.

15. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 17th June has a communicated article by an expert, in which the following observations are made:—

BANGAVASI,
June 17th, 1905.

European publishers versus
Bengali school-book makers.

Text-books in Bengali literature can be written by none but Bengalis. Bengali text-books in History and Geography also should be written by Bengalis, for there are many Bengalis who are proficient in those two subjects.. The Bengali is almost unrivalled for his aptitude for Mathematics, and mathematical text-books in Bengali should therefore be written by Bengalis. There may be a question as to Science, considering the small advance made in Science by this country as compared with England. But text-books in such elementary Science as is taught in the schools in this country need not be written by Englishmen when there are such competent scientists among Bengalis as Babu Trailokya Nath Mukerjee, Girischandra Bose and Ramendra Sundar Trivedi. There is this drawback to any advantage that might be claimed for a text-book in Science written by an Englishman for Indian students that the book will require to be translated into Bengali and a great part of its merit will thus evaporate in the process. Many literary Associations in this country have already strongly protested against the use of translations in schools, in connection with the proposed preparation of agricultural primers. One signal evidence out of many of the futility of translations is afforded by the fact that of the many renderings by English writers of eminence from foreign languages, only Coleridge's version of Schiller's *Wallenstein* and Lord Derby's translation of Homer's *Iliad* are admitted to be satisfactory reproductions of the originals. Indeed, the use of translations did not obtain formerly in the Education Department of this province. Their use dates from the introduction of the Kindergarten system. We do not mean to say that it was with a view to this that the system was introduced. There is no gainsaying, however, that the system has led to this result. This use of translated books has, however, proved highly prejudicial to the interests of both Bengali school-boys and Bengali school-book makers: to school-boys because the language of those translations is corrupt and unintelligible, and to school-book makers as taking away the bread from their mouths. Now, this patronage extended to translations manufactured by English publishers—men who make these ventures to add to their already enormous profits and to their already very extensive field of activity, and not like the Bengali school-book maker as his sole means of subsistence—is objectionable from the following points of view. It is a violation of the rules of charity, for where claims are equal on both sides, what man of heart but would favour the poorer man in preference to one who is immensely richer? It is also a violation of the rules of justice, for it is clearly unjust to give one the right to prepare text-books who has not the natural fitness to do so, to the prejudice of another who is naturally fitted for that office. It is also opposed to that policy of protection as against free trade which the English Government itself follows from motives of conciliation as well as compassion to the weaker, in appointing a competent Bihari to the public service in Bihar in preference to even more competent men from other provinces. As for the English publishers themselves, they should remember that they are not only traders in India but also members of the ruling race, and it therefore ill becomes them to claim a share of the profits which alone enable the Bengali school-book maker to live.

16. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 18th June understands that the Government has given up the idea of splitting up the languages of Bengal and Bihar. The proposal

HITAVARTA,
June 18th, 1905.

Rural primary education.

has convulsed the people of Bengal. If the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal has really given up the idea, he ought to announce the fact and quiet the public mind.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
June 15th, 1905.

17. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 15th June writes as follows:—
The Lunatic Asylums of Bengal.

To maintain the helpless and homeless lunatics in the country is one of the duties of the Government. It is incumbent on it to see that lunatics do not either oppress others or are oppressed, themselves and that they do not die for want of food and shelter. Our country is not so advanced as to possess its own independent sources of information as to how Government is discharging this duty. All our knowledge in the matter is derived from official reports. But the ways of official reports are strange and peculiar. The Superintendent of a Lunatic Asylum writes to the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals that he has discharged his duties with great care, diligence and discretion and has done all that could be done for the comfort of the lunatics under him. On this the Inspector-General considers his responsibility in the matter lightened and reports to the Lieutenant-Governor that the working of the Lunatic Asylum is very satisfactory and that the lunatics have no grievances. His Honour expresses his concurrence in this report with great delight and orders its publication. From this report people learn that Government is very kind to lunatics. If the death-rate among them is high, there is the easy explanation that the deceased were suffering from serious and incurable diseases when they entered the asylum.

What we intend to say in this connection is this: Such lunatics as have committed crimes or may do harm to society by their conduct must, under the law, be taken into the asylum. But those who are responsible for the working of the asylums should constantly have their eyes on the rule that even common lunatics who are homeless should be admitted into those institutions. A study, however, of the last report on the working of the Lunatic Asylums of Bengal, will perhaps lead the asylum authorities to refuse to admit lunatics from most districts, just as lunatics from Tippera were not admitted during the last year. Will the Government see that the practice does not recur?

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA.

18. The same paper says that the Lieutenant-Governor is going to make over the Maniknagar Ghat Road in Bhadreswar to Messrs. Thomas, Duff & Co., in spite of the strong and unanimous protest of the local Hindus. The following account will show how Muhammadans deal with matters like this and achieve their purpose. A few months ago the same mills owners of Bhadreswar managed to acquire a Musalman burial-ground in Telinipara. But when one of the *sahebs* of the mill went to take possession of it with his Bara Babu, the local Musalmans attacked them so furiously that they were obliged to take refuge in a steam-launch on the river. The Musalmans then began to draw the launch by the mooring rope. The refugees were therefore obliged to cut the rope and escape with their lives. It is rumoured that the mill-owners have given up the idea of taking possession of the land.

It is extremely wrong and unjust to disregard Hindu public feeling because the Hindus are peaceful.

SOLTAN,
June 16th, 1905.

19. The *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 16th June insists, in the interests of the public health, on the necessity of stricter control than is now being exercised over the various shops in Calcutta when edibles are sold, such as the *mithai* (sweetmeat) shops of the Hindus, the *kabob* shops of the Musalmans, the *fuluri* shops of the Uriyas, the *laddoo* shops of the Hindusthanees and the like. It is urged that the articles prepared and sold for consumption in these shops are quite unfit to be eaten by human beings. Adulterated *ghee* and *oil*, rotten fat and flesh, these are the ingredients in ordinary use in these shops. In addition, a general air of squalor and dirt prevails about them, which is sickening.

HITAVADI,
June 16th, 1905.

20. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 16th June writes as follows:—

Mr. Greer on the proposed Borough Councils in Calcutta.

In his recent speech delivered on the occasion of opening the new Municipal Council Chamber in Calcutta, Mr. Greer said, "I ask you to believe, gentlemen, that the scheme (the proposed Borough system) is an honest effort to improve municipal government in Calcutta by decentralising authority and utilising the services of the rate-payers in the management of their own affairs. I regret to observe that even in its present undefined condition it has evoked a great deal of hostile criticism."

When the Lieutenant-Governor appointed a Committee to investigate the matter he advised its members that in making their recommendations they should keep the existing system, as much as possible, intact. It is against this advice that our criticism was directed. The Calcutta Municipal Act has deprived the rate-payers of the town of local self-government and it has been proved by sufficiently long experience that efficient municipal administration cannot be expected under that Act. It is a wonder if Mr. Greer's long experience as the Chairman of the Corporation has not convinced him of the truth of this proposition. A change in the municipal law of the town is therefore necessary; so that if, as Mr. Greer says, the intention of the authorities is "to improve municipal government in Calcutta by decentralising authority and utilising the services of the rate-payers in the management of their own affairs," why give the advice that the current system should not be changed? We should have been glad if Mr. Greer had pointed out to us how it is possible to "decentralise authority and utilise the services of the rate-payers in the management of their own affairs," by keeping the existing municipal law for the town intact. We would have welcomed the proposed reform and heartily thanked the Lieutenant-Governor if we knew that Government was willing to place larger powers in the hands of the rate-payers in matters concerning the municipal administration of the town, and that it was the real intention of the authorities to make local self-government in the town really popular with the rate-payers. But there is no hope of any such change. We are at a loss to make out how a division of the Municipality into a number of boroughs would benefit the rate-payers or widen the sphere of self-government, unless the law which had practically deprived them of self-government was itself changed. Mr. Greer said that "if in Calcutta, the most advanced part of Bengal if not of India, the representatives of the rate-payers of Calcutta are not able to take charge of any municipal work in their own surroundings, then it is useless to talk of local self-government." True, but did the representatives of the rate-payers of Calcutta ever decline or prove incompetent to take charge of any municipal work? It was Government which wrested all powers from the rate-payers by means of legislation. To lay any blame at their door is therefore extremely unjust. Who can believe that the Lieutenant-Governor, who has spared no pains to defend the current municipal law of Calcutta, will enlarge the scope of local self-government in it by means of Borough Councils? This is our honest conviction and we have expressed it as plainly as possible.

21. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 17th June notices an allegation against Dr. Syamakanta Bhattacharji,

An allegation against the Chairman of the Debbhatta Municipality in Khulna.

Chairman of the Debbhatta Municipality in Khulna, to the effect that he got one of his servants forcibly to pluck four jack-fruits from a tree in

the possession of one Dina Nath Karmakar. The Chairman, apparently to show that Dina Nath has no grievance against him, claims that the tree is municipal property, and he has even gone so far as to pay in to the credit of the municipal funds the sum of a few annas as the purchase-money of these fruits against the name of one of his servants, Gopal. But it is pointed out that even admitting that the tree was municipal property, the thing was irregular, since a sale of any municipal property can be conducted only in public and after due notice of it has been given to the public by beat of drum. And it is claimed that both of these conditions were absent in the present case.

HOWRAH HITAIISHI,
June 17th, 1905.

22. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 17th June draws attention to

Malaria in a Jessore village.

the prevalence of malaria in village Gopalpur, Kaliganj, in Jessore. There is no tank within two

or three miles of this village. The only source of water-supply is a river, the water of which, though not stagnant, is of a deep red colour and gives off a foul stench and is so full of rotten weeds as to be unfit for drinking purposes not only for men but for cattle as well. There is, further, no qualified *kaviraj* or doctor available in the neighbourhood. The inhabitants are generally all poor and cannot afford the expense of digging a tank or a well. The assistance of Government is solicited.

DAILY HITAVADI,
June 17th, 1905.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

BARISAL HITAIISHI,
June 14th, 1905.

23. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 14th June has the following:—

A complaint against certain settlement employes.

We have on various occasions given publicity to the heartless and shameless manner in which certain subordinate officers connected with the settlement work are sucking dry the very life-blood of the poor cultivators and landholders here. Here is the story of the doings of the Jainagar camp in the Bhola subdivision. Sasi Kumar Das, Prasanna Kumar Chakravarti, Satyabhusan Chakrabarty, Sital Chandra Lashkar, Lalit Chandra Das and Bazlay Karim are the muharrirs of that camp. These semi-educated youths, holding appointments on Rs. 20, were conducting themselves in a very high-handed manner. In addition, bribery went on freely among them. They began to fatten themselves on money wrung out of the cultivators. And with increasing affluence began to appear its inevitable accompaniments—luxury and license. The interests of many people began to suffer and some were ruined by the action of these settlement employes in entering one's lands as another's. Then anonymous petitions began to be received at the head office. In due course they reached the ears of Mr. Jack, the Settlement Officer. Then he and the worthy Deputy Collector, Babu Peary Mohan Bose, went to Jainagar in person to inquire into the truth or otherwise of the facts stated in these petitions. To set forth in writing what these officers came to know as the result of their minute inquiries makes the blood cease to flow in the body and the head to hang down in the greatest shame. These worthies during a period of attestation work extending only over a few months succeeded in remitting home sums to the extent of four or five thousand rupees. Two to three thousand rupees worth of gold ornaments had been purchased and costly articles of luxury had been bought from the firm of Messrs. Whiteaway, Laidlaw & Co. In addition to all this, these fellows had brought in a number of prostitutes from Bhola and given them lodgings near the camp. And also sometimes prostitutes used to be temporarily brought in in hackney carriages all the way from Bhola. Large numbers of wine bottles have been found in their houses. It was resolved, on the receipt of evidence of the above and similar other facts, to dismiss them. On the 12th June last, Mr. Jack assembled all the employes of the settlement office here, and addressing them in a voice broken with emotion, declared that the officers whose doings have been detailed above had brought discredit on themselves, on the settlement work, and on all the officers of the department generally. Continuing, he went on to say that he knew that the Survey Department was corrupt, but that his opinion about the Settlement Department was otherwise. He was grieved, ashamed and wounded to the heart to witness that department so seriously corrupt. Money had been forcibly taken from the poor cultivator. In broad daylight prostitutes had been brought into the settlement camp and carousals held. The entire settlement had been brought into discredit by these doings. Mr. Jack concluded by announcing the dismissal of the first five offenders and the suspension of the remaining two. We trust that, as a consequence of the present lesson, the worthies of the other camps will be warned, so that the poor cultivators may breathe freely and repeatedly bless Mr. Jack and Peary Babu.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
June 16th, 1905.

24. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 16th June notices the following allegations in connexion with the management of the Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway:—

- (1) The general overcrowding of passengers on its trains, in consequence of an insufficient supply of carriages.
- (2) The whimsical conduct of the Station Master of Melia.

- (3) The ignorance and neglect of duty on the part of the Station Master of Berachampa station, as evidenced by the two following cases :—

- (a) On the morning of the 3rd June last, three men travelling from Baraset alighted at Berachampa and asked for tickets to Melia. The Station Master refused to issue them tickets, so that these three men had to travel by bullock carts.
- (b) Again, on the 6th June last, a gentleman booked a quantity of mangoes by the brake-van from Berachampa station to Sealdah. He himself saw his parcel labelled and duly taken into the brake-van, but when he inquired for it at Sealdah he could not find it anywhere. When he showed his receipt for the parcel and demanded compensation, an Inspector of the Bengal Central Railway explained that the parcel had been left at Dum-Dum Junction and that it was all the fault of the Station Master of Berachampa that it had been so left.

25. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 16th June complains that in view of the large number of passengers who almost every day assemble at the Bankura railway station,

BANKURA DARPAN,
June 16th, 1905.

The Bankura railway station. the present seating accommodation at that station, which consists of a single bench, is inadequate. At least another bench should be provided. Further, the corrugated iron shed which at present covers the station platform makes it intensely hot under the rays of the mid-day sun. Something should be done to mitigate this inconvenience by putting on wooden planks on the under side of the iron roofing.

26. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 17th June mentions the two following cases of incivility to passengers on the part of the station staff at Bagnan, Bengal-Nagpur

HOWRAH HITAIISHI,
June 17th, 1905.

The Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

Railway :—

- (1) On the morning of the 19th May last, Babu Fakir Chandra Ghose of Gopalpur had occasion to accompany Babu Nilmadhab Singh, the Daroga of the Bagnan thana, to the Bagnan railway station on official business. As, after seeing the Daroga Babu into the train, Fakir Babu was about to come back, he was at first insultingly spoken to and afterwards hustled out of the platform by one of the porters. The names of several persons are given in this connexion who were eye-witnesses of the occurrence.
- (2) On another occasion a highly respectable gentleman called at the house of Hriday Nath Patra, the Station Master, where there were already many other persons assembled to meet a *gyotishi*, or fortune-teller, who was Hriday Babu's guest at the time. It is alleged that on this occasion the Assistant Station Master, Sasi Bhusan Ghose, first abused the gentleman in question and then turned him out of the house.

The same paper also complains of the inadequacy of the present number of trains serving stations like Uluberia, Bagnan, Deulti, Kola, etc., beyond Bauria. The following suggestions are offered in this connexion :—

- (1) The Uluberia Local which now leaves Calcutta at 9 A.M. and runs up to Uluberia should leave Calcutta at 8, travel up to Deulti and then leave Deulti again on its return journey at 10, and arrive at Howrah at 12.
- (2) The Bauria Local which now leaves Calcutta at 2-30 P.M. and travels up to Bauria should leave Calcutta at 3, run up to Deulti, leave Deulti again at 5 on its return journey, and arrive at Howrah at 7.
- (3) The Bagnan Local should leave Calcutta at 8 P.M., run up to Deulti, halt for the night there, and leave Deulti again on its return journey at 6 on the following morning. Or it might start on its return journey the same night at 10 P.M. and arrive at Calcutta at 12 P.M.

Reference is next made to the inconvenience suffered by passengers in consequence of the absence of any shed on the side of the double line at Deulti, Bagnan, Fulgachi and Uluberia stations. It is also pointed out that almost all the stations on this line are unprovided with any separate screened accommodation for females.

Lastly, attention is drawn to the general incivility which is said to characterise the manners of the station staff on this line, and also to their general practice of levying blackmail or toll upon all vendors of milk, fish, fruit, etc., who happen to be passengers.

HITAVARTA,
June 18th, 1905.

27. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 18th June is sorry to learn that the office of the Goods Superintendent of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway is kept open from 9-30 A.M. to 7 P.M. Will not the Government of India, who undertake to pass a law for the conduct of *khansamas* (?), pass some law fixing the business hours of poor clerks? It has also come to its notice that the fines realized from clerks is spent in improving the Club of the Europeans. Poor clerks! Their condition is becoming worse every day.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Jun 18th, 1905.

28. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 18th June says that on the 10th idem the booking-clerk of the Dacca railway station took Rs. 2-8 from Nisi Babu, Inspecting Pandit, Sadar subdivision, Dacca, for three tickets to Domesar. Afterwards Nisi Babu discovered that the tickets he had received were for the station below Domesar. But as the train by which he was to travel was about to start at that time, he could do nothing in the matter. Such unfair earnings on the part of booking-clerks are only made possible by the practice of selling tickets only a few minutes before the starting of trains. Some time ago it was rumoured that in all stations on the State Railways tickets would be sold at all hours. If this rule does not apply to the Dacca station, the authorities are requested to make arrangements for the sale of tickets in that station at least one hour before the starting of trains.

(h)—General.

CHARU MIHIR,
June 13th, 1906.

29. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 13th June says that day by day Lord Curzon's administrative policy in India is assuming a more and more questionable aspect. He inaugurated his administration by lopping off a member of the body of local self-government in Bengal and is enacting the last scenes of his administration in the midst of the wails and imprecations of three hundred millions of the Indian people. It is a century and a half since the British Government was established in India, but no one had, before Lord Curzon's time, seen marks of such deep discontent as are visible now. The Indians are not a people to be easily excited, but Lord Curzon has driven them to the utmost limit of their patience. The protest meetings at Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Lahore and Allahabad and lastly at London were held not simply to express dissatisfaction at His Excellency's Convocation speech, but to enter a protest against his administrative policy in general.

It is not by frivolous causes that the writer has been led to find fault with Lord Curzon's rule. Every act of his, in fact, has gone against the interests of the people of India. No one will dare to say that the panic which has been caused by the Universities Act about the future of high education is groundless. The abolition of the competitive tests for the recruitment of the public services has placed all the higher posts in the public service at the patronage of the Government, and how that patronage is distributed will be clear from a glance at the Customs, the Railway, the Salt and the Opium Department, the doors to which are completely closed against the natives. In the Engineering Department, again, Government is creating a new branch exclusively for the Europeans. Thus, the English, while professing equality, are, in practice, creating divisions among different nationalities in India. The late Queen's Proclamation is, in consequence, becoming a meaningless document. Lord Curzon's exposition of it has, indeed, alarmed the people of India. His treatment of the native Princes has not been quite friendly, and the Delhi Darbar showed them their position under British rule. He has interfered with the freedom of the Press. He has failed on many occasions to maintain his gravity at

Council meetings, and, lastly, he poured forth his heart's venom at the Convocation speech. No Viceroy before him had shewn such slight regard for popular opinion as he has done in regard to the question of the partition of Bengal. His partiality for Europeans and Eurasians has become patent in the giving away of twenty Police Inspectorships in Bengal, out of a total of twenty-four such posts to be filled up this year, to Europeans and Eurasians. Rumour has it that Sir Andrew Fraser was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal only to help Lord Curzon in the carrying out of his policy. Shall the people of India, after all this, bless or curse Lord Curzon?

His Lordship must have by this time fully realized the opinion of the entire native community about his long rule, and he should not remain in this country longer.

30. With reference to the concession recently announced that in future the Director-General of the Post Office may offer compensation to the extent of Rs. 25 for any

Postal suggestions.

uninsured registered letter or parcel, which might have got damaged or lost in the course of its transit through the post office, a correspondent of the *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 14th June inquires whether the result of this concession will be a stopping of the present practice of sending currency notes and stamps in ordinary envelopes?

The same correspondent suggests the desirability of reducing the present registration fee for letters from two annas to one anna, which, it is urged, besides increasing the Government income, will check the present practice of tampering with envelopes suspected to be a little heavier than the usual weight, which is indulged in by postal peons and clerks.

It is further suggested that as, at present, book-packets rarely reach their addressees, unless registered, a rule should be made that all book-packets in future must be registered, but the fee should be one anna and not two.

The last suggestion made by the correspondent refers to the desirability of extending the concession at present confined to newspaper proprietors of sending newspapers for one pice up to a weight of six tolas, to the general public and also of putting advertisements, catalogues, price lists, rules, reports of Societies on the same list as newspapers in regard to this concession.

31. A correspondent of the *Suhrid* [Noakhali] of the 14th June says that the great distance of the Fulgazi Post Office in the Noakhali district from Fulbarhia, Mamudpur and other villages under it gives rise to serious irregularities in the delivery of letters, etc., in these villages. There is only one peon attached to the post office. Fulbarhia, Baksmamud, Mamudpur and other villages, some 14 or 15 in all, fall within his one day's beat. It is impossible for one man to distribute from house to house the letters, etc., of so many villages in one day. The peon is, therefore, obliged to distribute them in the Baksmamud bazar on the two days in the week on which the bazar is held. Such distribution often causes misdelivery, loss of letters, etc. Besides this, the road between these villages and Fulbarhia is so low that in the rainy season it is generally submerged. And two powerful rivers, the Muhuri and the Kuhua, intersect this road. But there are no bridges over them at these places of intersection. Delivery of mails in the above villages is consequently often stopped in the rains. Under these circumstances the authorities are requested to establish a post office on the left side of the District Board's road in the Fulbarhia-Baksmamud bazar.

32. A correspondent of the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 16th June severely criticises the rules which have been recently issued by the Presidency Postmaster, Calcutta, concerning form writers in the Calcutta Post Office.

Form writers in the Calcutta Post Office.

These writers will henceforth have to make a deposit of Rs. 50 each. In section (3) of the rules it is laid down that they will be held responsible for any mistakes they may commit in their writings. This is a rule which has not a parallel in any department of Government. Again, it has been ruled that if a writer falls ill and fails to send a substitute, his deposit-money will be forfeited. The injustice of this rule will prevent many a man from applying for the post of a form writer.

KASIPUR NIVASI,
June 14th, 1905.

SUHRID,
June 14th, 1905.

SAMAY
June 16th, 1905.

DAILY HITAVADI,
June 18th, 1905.

33. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th June complains of the inadequacy of the pay of the clerks of the Postal Department. It is pointed out that these clerks have often to work hard from 3 A.M. till 12 noon following, with rare intervals, on pay ranging usually from Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 a month. While other Government officers are provided with quarters, for these clerks there is nothing better than the *dak*-runners' stage-hut as a place to cook their meals in and the post office chest as a place to lie on at night. A comparison is instituted between the pay of these clerks, which is Rs. 15 or Rs. 20 a month, with that of steamer clerks, which is at least Rs. 25, and with that of telegraph clerks, which is never less than Rs. 35, and with that of the last class of "sorters" in the Railway Mail Service, which is Rs. 20 at the minimum. It is suggested that, in consideration of the responsible nature of their duties and the zeal and probity which have hitherto characterised them, no pay short of Rs. 30 to begin with should be considered adequate for postal clerks.

DAILY HITAVADI.

34. A correspondent of the same paper of the 19th June makes an appeal for an increase of pay to the *dak*-runners employed by the post office. It is pointed out that in East Bengal many of these runners are kept employed on double working, i.e., both taking the mails out and bringing them in. This keeps them occupied all the day from morning till after noon, so that they cannot eke out their small wages as runners by any other employment. Reference is further made to the fact that these runners can never have leave of absence on any ground, and that in spite of disabilities like these, their monthly wages never exceed six rupees.

SANJIVANI,
June 15th, 1905.

35. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 15th June writes as follows:—
The effects of the present system of making appointments to Government service have already made themselves manifest on three occasions during one month:—

- (1) The Bengal Government has proclaimed that 30 per cent. of all posts on Rs. 40 and upwards in the office of the Board of Revenue should be reserved for Europeans and Eurasians.
- (2) In the issue of the *Calcutta Gazette* for the 7th June last has been notified the appointment of one Musalman and of one European or Eurasian as Sub-Deputy Collectors of the 4th grade. The Musalman is a B.A., but the *sahab*, whose name is David Macdonald, possesses no University degree. The same issue of the *Gazette* announces the appointment of twenty-six Sub-Deputy Collectors to the 5th grade, but one of them, Mr. Oliver Godwin Robinson, does not possess a University degree. The rest, who are either Hindus or Musalmans, are all graduates.
- (3) The *Bengalee* newspaper dated the 8th June last says that 293 persons applied for Inspectorships of Police, of whom 4 were M.A. and B.L.'s, 17 M.A.'s, 73 B.L.'s, and the rest, with the exception of a very few, B.A.'s. Of these, only 4 have been appointed, namely, 1 M.A., 1 B.L., and 2 B.A.'s. On the other hand, 20 Europeans or Eurasians have been appointed who have no University degrees at all. We learn from Darjeeling that these 20 men were formerly in the military service and that in the Police line they will teach drill, etc.

To what conclusion do these appointments lead? They prove that Government is determined to take Europeans and Eurasians in the public service even if they be unfit for it in comparison with Indians. This is a violation of established practice and of Government's previous pledge to the Indians, and Government will very soon have to suffer the baleful consequences of this policy.

The effect of the new orders regarding appointments in the Board's office will soon be perceived by the Government. But both Government and the natives will suffer from the consequences of appointing unfit white men as Sub-Deputy Collectors. Will the Government's policy of partiality towards *sahabs* enhance people's respect for it? We know what harm is being done to

the country by a number of corrupt white Deputy Magistrates, and to what difficulty Government is sometimes put in order to hide their scandalous proceedings. Mr. Fordyce of Dacca, Mr. Warde-Jones of Govindapur and Mr. Jolly of Assam are not the least prominent among these European Deputy Magistrates. Europeans cannot live on small salaries, and still Government would appoint them as Sub-Deputy Collectors. However that may be, we can never support the policy of extreme partiality towards Europeans and Eurasians which Government is following nowadays. If the British rule in India ever falls into any danger, it will do so mainly through this policy of partiality. We therefore make the strongest protest against it and exhort our countrymen to set up a fierce agitation over the matter. It would seem that while University degrees are necessary in the case of natives applying for Police Inspectorships, no such qualifications are needed in the case of European and Eurasian candidates. Now as the services of retired soldiers can be easily secured for the purpose of teaching drill on Rs. 70 or Rs. 80, there can be no necessity for appointing a number of Police Inspectors for the same purpose. We are therefore led to think that the new Soldier-Inspectors of Police will later on be placed in charge of thanas. Woe to the country if that should happen. The new Inspectors will create great disorder in the land, which will most probably relapse to the state of anarchy and misrule which prevailed in the days of the *Bargis* and *Mahrattas*.

It seems that there is nothing which that Government cannot do which can violate the Act of 1833 and the late Queen's Proclamation of 1858.

Government's purpose has quite alarmed us. Measures should be adopted to make the Government abandon this policy of partiality without delay. Let a vigorous protest be raised in every town in Bengal on every occasion that the Act of 1833 or the Proclamation of 1858 is violated. Let the representatives of the people unite and approach the Government and strongly protest against its actions. If the people be earnestly alive to their interest, Government will not dare do injustice to them.

36. Referring to what has appeared in the *Hindoo Patriot* about Mr. Rolt's compensation, the same paper writes as follows :—

SANJIVANI,
June 15th, 1905.

It is only just that the Khagra Estate should not be made to pay the compensation money. It is also just that Government should pay Mr. Rolt Rs. 15,000 as compensation for the criminal prosecution to which he was unjustly subjected at the hands of Government officials. But to pay him full pay from the date of his suspension to that of his acquittal by the High Court is nothing but pure favour. We see no reason why he should receive his salary from October 1st to January 31st. The Magistrate of Purnea prosecuted him believing, in good faith, that he was guilty, and Government has admitted that Mr. Lea was not to blame for the act. Has it, therefore, been proper for the Government to show so much favour to Mr. Rolt?

37. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 16th June writes :—

DAILY HITAVADI,
June 16th, 1905.

The Rolt case. We hear that as a result of the protest which greeted the Government proposal to pay Rs. 15,000 out of the Khagra Estate as damages to Mr. Rolt, the Lieutenant-Governor has decided to pay the money out of the Government Treasury. The Khagra Estate is to be made responsible for Mr. Rolt's pay for six months' since it dismissed Mr. Rolt without notice, and the pay for the months during which he was being prosecuted is to be paid out direct by Government. Although the arrangement might be regarded as something of a concession to the public demands, we cannot agree to support it. Mr. Rolt was accused not wholly without justification. Such being the case, the Lieutenant-Governor cannot at all be held justified in compensating him at the expense of the public taxpayer. One may also contrast the attitude of Government in the present case with its attitude in the case of Mr. Tilak.

38. The same paper writes :—

DAILY HITAVADI.

The Rolt case. Mr. Justice Henderson, who is a Barrister-Judge, has reviewed the conduct of the Government officials implicated in the Rolt case with the logic and arguments of a Barrister. In our opinion the Lieutenant-Governor has been guilty of great

weakness in favouring some of these officials as well as in agreeing to award damages to Mr. Rolt. His Honour in his eagerness to conciliate the non-official European community seems to have missed paying proper attention to certain important considerations.

The following are the principal heads of the charges which seem to have roused the ire of Mr. Rolt's supporters against the Government officials concerned in the case :—

- (1) That Mr. Lea, after hearing of the charges against Mr. Rolt, did not proceed to inform Mr. Rolt of the nature of those charges and of the names of his accusers and did not also call upon him to explain.
- (2) That Mr. Lea did not bring to Mr. Rolt's knowledge the evidence which he had obtained in support of these charges.
- (3) That Mr. Lea refused Mr. Rolt's request for an interview in order to talk over the question of these charges.
- (4) That Mr. Lea made the necessary inquiries into these charges in the absence of the accused, Mr. Rolt, and gave Mr. Rolt no opportunity of examining the witnesses against him.
- (5) That Mr. Lea promised Mr. Rolt an enquiry, but did not actually make any such inquiry before instituting the prosecution.
- (6) The issuing of a warrant against Mr. Rolt in the first instance and also putting him to the indignity of standing in the criminal's dock.
- (7) That Mr. Rolt was not previously informed of the nature of the report which Mr. Lea submitted against him to the Divisional Commissioner, Mr. Duncan Macpherson.

Mr. Justice Henderson has in strong language pointed out the impropriety of these acts, and the Anglo-Indian Press also is loudly agitating against these same errors of omission and commission. And as for the Government of Bengal, though it has not admitted the truth of all these accusations, yet by its censure of the particular acts of certain of the officials, it has in a way admitted the substantial truth of them all. And this is where the Lieutenant-Governor has made his mistake.

We wish to inquire which of the acts of the Government officials in connection with Mr. Rolt's case detailed above can be considered unjust or illegal? Who will not admit that prosecuting officials have often in the earlier stages of a case to proceed on evidence which will not be accepted as satisfactory proof in a Court? Is not the Lieutenant-Governor aware how a slight rumour or the imputation by one or two individuals or some equally slight evidence is often enough to lead police officers to undertake a search against an offender? If the accused is, in such cases, informed previously of the nature of the evidence accumulating against him, will not that mean difficulty in getting up further evidence against him? Are those who are blaming Mr. Lea's conduct in having held the inquiry against Mr. Rolt behind his back, ready to condemn similar conduct in a Magistrate in the case of all accused persons? If every link in the chain of evidence against an accused is previously to be brought to the knowledge of the accused, if the prosecution against him is to be lodged only after the inquiry into his case has been conducted in his presence and he has been given every facility for examining hostile witnesses, would not that mean harassment to the executive officials at every step? Government officials are not bound to adopt such a procedure under the existing law. How then can Mr. Lea be held guilty? To what *zulm* or oppression was Mr. Rolt subjected? As regards the issuing of a warrant against Mr. Lea in the first instance and his being put in the criminal's dock, we admit that in consideration of Mr. Rolt's position a summons rather than a warrant should have been issued against him in the first instance, and also that if he had been allowed to sit by his Counsel at Court instead of being made to stand in the criminal's dock, it would only have redounded to the credit of Mr. Rolt for courtesy. But, on the other hand, although the charge of which Mr. Rolt stood accused is a non-bailable one, the warrant which was issued against him provided for bail. And even as to his being put in the dock, it was in no sense illegal. How many natives

of position and standing, though accused of far lighter offences and often wholly innocent, suffer the indignity of being even handcuffed? Certainly in these cases, Government never proceeds to publicly censure its officials, nor do our generous-hearted Anglo-Indian contemporaries make any reference to them at all. Can it be the desire of our rulers then to arrange for special treatment for European offenders?

We confess to a deep feeling of distress when we review all the actions of Government in connection with the Rolt case. It is our impression that after this Resolution, no self-respecting official will dare to prosecute again any European of position. It completely passes our wit to apprehend what justification there was for awarding damages to Mr. Rolt. Damages can be properly awarded only when an innocent man is persecuted wholly without justification. Mr. Rolt's case was not one of this nature. The evidence on which he was prosecuted was considered sufficient to warrant a prosecution by the District Magistrate, the Divisional Commissioner, the Board of Revenue, the Legal Remembrancer, and the Standing Counsel.

We cannot agree with those who think that it was wrong to have put Mr. Rolt on his trial without previously having given him an opportunity of explanation and defence. Our opinion is that when a public official is under suspicion, the best thing is to put him on his trial and thereby to give him the best opportunity of vindicating himself. Neither Mr. Rolt nor any of his supporters have yet been able satisfactorily to explain away the purchase by Mr. Rolt for the Khagra Estate of an estate at more than its proper price. And yet Mr. Rolt, because he is a European, is awarded damages and his accusers censured. And still the Anglo-Indian Press is not satisfied. We have nothing to say if the sort of treatment which is now meted out to Mr. Rolt is in future to be the lot of natives and Europeans alike. But if that is not to be so, then we must say that the public discontent will only increase, that in future tyrannising Europeans will treat with contempt the authority of Magistrates, and that in the long run the sum total of injustice and oppression in the country will only increase.

39. The *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 16th June writes:—

Suggestions for improving the condition of the agriculturists.

Government is founding agricultural colleges, model agricultural farms and veterinary hospitals.

These are all, of course, good in their way. But what want will they supply of the vast agricultural community? To satisfy the needs of the agricultural classes all over the country, more liberal arrangements are necessary on the part of Government. First, provision should be made for the breeding of first class cattle in every district, in every subdivision, nay, in every thana. Arrangements should be made so that the cultivators in these places can have for purchase good bullocks and cows. Again, each district should have an agricultural school, a model farm and a veterinary doctor. These veterinary doctors should keep a store of the best remedies for the ordinary epidemics from which the cattle of the district suffer. The ordinary *pathsalas* should provide instruction in veterinary medicine. The *gurus* with their present poor pay of four or five rupees might eke out their income by dispensing common medicines for the diseases of cattle. To carry out the suggestions herein made means the expenditure of large sums of money, which Government alone cannot incur without the assistance of the zamindars, the *mahajans*, and the *vakils*, the prosperity of all of which classes is intimately bound up with that of the cultivator.

40. The *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 17th June writes:—

The sale of pice packets of quinine.

The British Government owns a cinchona plantation on the Sonada Hill. The cinchona which is produced here is put into packets and these are

then distributed by Government through the agency of the post office in this malaria-ridden country of course for a nominal price). There are some evil-minded persons who do not hesitate to say evil things of Government for thus undertaking the rôle of a quinine seller. But we do not see a jot of evil in this action of Government's. For the people of Bengal are rending the skies with their cries of malaria, and it is only to rescue them from that malaria that Government is cultivating cinchona at all this trouble and expense. The

SOLTAN,
June 16th, 1905.

RATNAKAR,
June 17th, 1905.

opponents of Government might perhaps argue that Government should improve the drainage of the country and its facilities for the supply of pure drinking water and these would eradicate malaria. But where is the necessity of wasting large sums of money uselessly on water-supply and drainage works, if Government can save its subjects from the grip of malaria by simply making them use quinine worth a pice only? It is not the part of a wise man to apply big remedies where the simplest nostrums suffice to rescue the patients from the most serious complaints. So if the use of pice packets of quinine is enough to save the people from malaria and to bring in a nice income to Government as well, has anybody any right to say anything to that?

HITAVARTA,
June 18th, 1905.

41. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 18th June says that, according to the *Westminster Gazette*, the English Ministry has accepted Lord Kitchener's Army Reform scheme so

Lord Kitchener's resignation.

far as to make it no longer necessary for him to resign his post. The authorities in England were at their wits' end to hear of his resignation. From the above statement it appears that the news of Lord Kitchener's resignation is correct. His Excellency may or may not continue to be our Commander-in-Chief. What we want and pray for is that our hard-earned money may not be wasted extravagantly.

BHARAT MITRA
June 17th, 1905.

42. Referring to the appeal preferred by Pala Singh, a Sikh police jamadar, against his dismissal from the Burma Military Police, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the

Pala Singh's appeal.

17th June says that as Pala Singh, an old and brave soldier, has been dismissed without having been allowed to be heard in his defence, his case deserves to be considered by Lord Curzon.

DACCA GAZETTE,
June 19th, 1905.

43. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 19th June publishes the following in English:—

The Salary Commission.

We have plenty of Commissions nowadays with no appreciable benefits. Certainly they gather a heavy mass of evidence, base their conclusions thereon, and draw up long lists of recommendations, most of which remain on paper only. The educated people of India are growing sceptical as regards the utility of such Commissions, rather do they pray to be saved from these wasteful functionaries. We are going to be favoured with another Commission very soon. It is to be christened Bengal Salary Commission and presided over by Mr. Savage, who has just finished his laborus in connection with the reorganization of the village unions. The object of the Commission, as is evident from the circular letters addressed to the Divisional Heads and the District Officers, seems to recommend certain reforms in the ministerial branch of the public service having special regard to the question of retrenchment. It is said that the posts of the sheristadars of both the Collector's and the Magistrate's offices will be abolished, each being placed under the charge of a head-clerk, to be supervised by a common Superintendent on Rs. 250 a month. This post will be a new creation. Similarly, the posts of the nazir and the record-keeper of both the offices will be combined into one. So instead of 7 hands there will be 5. Will not that reduction of hands throw additional burden of work upon the already overworked officers, or will the duties of the nazir and the record-keeper be lightened by the amalgamation? We are also told that the number of muharrirs in each office will be considerably reduced, for the would-be President of the Commission held a personal enquiry into the workings of the ministerial staff attached to the office of the Collector and Magistrate of Alipur and was convinced that the officers were all underworked. Whether they are underworked or the reverse of it is the case, cannot be determined by holding enquiry into a single district and that again for a limited period. The works vary considerably in different districts and in different times in the same district. So only a superficial view of the matter should not be taken as the basis on which to recommend a large reduction in the staff. Such recommendations, if carried into effect by the higher authorities, will seriously interfere with the efficient discharge of duties. Our own impression is that ministerial officers in some departments are overworked. However, it is too premature to offer any suggestion at this stage. The grade pay of these officers is, we hear, going to be converted into a fixed one. That may be an economy at the expense of the poor underpaid officers whose low scale of pay has drawn the attention of the

responsible heads of Government. How will it affect their interest, one may ask? When one officer is permitted to retire his pension is calculated upon his last five years' average pay. The average is sure to rise higher under the present system than if the principle of fixed salary be adopted, and the rate of pension in the latter case will be much less. If these recommendations are the outcome of the Commission, the petty officers' fate is sealed. What is meant by the creation of the post of a Superintendent in each district? Is it contemplated to reserve these posts for a favoured few of the white race? If so, we shall be the last persons to support the principle of robbing Peter to pay Paul.

44. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 19th June says that although many Government officers are of opinion that the separation of the judicial from the executive service is not suited to the Indian administration, yet the present Devan of Baroda has introduced the change in his State, and the last administration report of it shows that the measure has proved a success. We have now to see what new pretexts the Government have to make against the separation in British India.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
June 19th, 1905.

Separation of the judicial from
the executive in Baroda.

many Government officers are of opinion that the separation of the judicial from the executive service is not suited to the Indian administration, yet the

present Devan of Baroda has introduced the change in his State, and the last administration report of it shows that the measure has proved a success. We have now to see what new pretexts the Government have to make against the separation in British India.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

45. The *Hitavarta* [Muradnagar] of the 5th June draws a sad picture of the Agartala State. All its able and experienced officers have either resigned or are ready to resign.

HITAVARTA,
June 5th, 1905.

The Agartala State.

Mr. McMin, Babu Bipra Charan Nandi, Ranga Babu, and Mr. H. Bose, Chief Judge of the Agartala Chief Court, have all resigned the service of the Maharaja of Tippera. And it is rumoured that Babu Kailas Chandra Biswas is also ready to resign. All this clearly indicates mismanagement and the existence of scandals in the administration of the State, which is about to be ruined by Maharaja Radhakishen Manikya Bahadur. The State can only be saved if Mr. Scroope, the Political Agent, draws the attention of the Government of India to the matter.

46. The same paper of the 12th June writes:—

HITAVARTA,
June 12th, 1905.

The Maharaja of Tippera.

It is being given out on all sides that the mind of the Maharaja of Tippera is deranged. These reports make us ashamed and grieved. Seeing that the Maharaja is thus in many ways past correction, many good servants of the State, foreseeing future trouble, are resigning their posts. Self-seeking people have now found their opportunity and are employing themselves in secret and questionable services to the Maharaja.

Government is morally responsible for the welfare of this State. There is nobody except the Government now to whom one might look for its maintenance and advancement. It has become urgently necessary to find some remedy for the Maharaja's present condition. The time has come when the cares of State should be transferred to some energetic member of the Royal family and the relieved Maharaja permitted to enjoy life at his will. The Maharaja himself is incapable, and it is impossible for him to judge about the fitness or unfitness of his successor. Let the Provincial Government, which is a well-wisher of the State, preserve its own reputation unsullied by making over the serious responsibilities of the State to a qualified and active member of the ruling family and thereby saving the State from impending calamities.

47. In reference to the proposal of His Highness the Maharaja to open a college in Kashmir, the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 18th June observes that the question as to whether it is right and proper to spread higher education in

HITAVARTA,
June 18th, 1905.

The proposed college in Kash-
mir.

India has long been agitating the minds of British statesmen. One party is in favour of it, while the other is deadly against it. The policy of Lord Curzon in this connection shows that he belongs to the latter. He does not like to see the Indians educated in Western methods, because he is one of those Englishmen who are trembling with fear at the progress made by the Japanese under the influence of Western education. The Maharaja of Kashmir was going to open a college in his State, but the Resident has not allowed him to do so. We ask why under Lord Curzon's term of office

higher education should be in this pitiable condition. Had he been in favour of it, his subordinate officials would not have dared acting in the way the Resident has done.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

CHARU MIHIR,
June 13th, 1905.

48. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 13th June writes as follows:—

India and Japan's success.

The exultations which we are expressing at Japan's triumph are not in the least insincere. It is now a good long time since Europe commenced extending her dominion in the East; and at present she has become, by swallowing up territory after territory, the undisputed master of Asia. Even those States in Asia which have still been maintaining their independence are at every respiration of theirs feeling the unconquerable greed of the European Powers for acquisition of territory. And, not content with putting the fetters of slavery round Asia's feet, Europe is putting the inhabitants of Asia, every moment of their lives, in mind of their inferior position. No one thought that anybody could thwart the fierce course of the invincible greed of the European Powers for territory in Asia. But in the Russo-Japanese war the first military Power in Europe has sustained the worst reverses at the hands of a small Asiatic nation, inhabiting a small group of islands. And it is not unnatural that the weak Asiatics should express delight at this defeat of the first European Power.

But little worth attaches to our exultation, and little is our gain in Japan's accession of power. Nor have the English in India any cause for fear from Japan's success.

To our mind, British rule in India appears like a dispensation of Providence, because the different creeds and races inhabiting the country could never, to our mind, live happily and in peace under any native ruler. We do not, therefore, ever wish for the extinction of British rule, but we do wish for its improvement. The illiberal policy which is now being followed in the administration of this country, in violation of the late Queen-Empress's Proclamation, is good neither for the rulers nor the ruled.

Our agitation for the gain of rights and privileges which we were promised has not yielded results which can satisfy us. Many of our wishes remain unfulfilled. Nay, instead of acquiring any new privileges, we are on the way to lose some which we had already acquired. In fact, we now see that if we do not become deserving, that is to say, if we do not learn to stand on our own legs, no one else will be able to improve our condition. No nation on earth ever acquired any rights by depending upon the favour of an alien ruler, and we, too, can never expect any political rights by depending upon the favour of others. Japan has secured her lofty position in the world by her own prowess. Had she remained inert herself, the assistance of not a hundred European Powers could have brought her the glory she has achieved by her own efforts.

We never entertain the thought of the natives of India expelling Englishmen from their country by force of arms. We are growing into a mighty nation under British rule—an advantage which we could never have hoped for under Hindu or Musalman *regimé*. We shall, in fact, be able to improve our condition very much under British rule.

The first thing to do is to remove our poverty. We, Indians, are extremely poor; and this poverty of ours is draining away all our energy. Nothing but commerce and industries will improve our miserable condition in this respect.

PRATIJNA,
June 14th, 1905.

49. The *Pratijna* [Calcutta] of the 14th June writes as follows:—

"India's duty with Japan as her ideal."

History shows that India is the most ancient civilized country in Asia. There was a time when the brave sons of India did not shrink from sacrificing their lives in war for the sake of independence. But alas! those days are gone. The India of to-day is not the India of that time. She has lost all her former glory and riches. Famine now constantly stares the Indians in the face. Reduced to indigence by the extortions of an alien Sovereign, they have been obliged to seek mercy of officials. Though great in knowledge and wisdom, the Indians have been brought to the lowest rung of degeneration by the

selfishness and unjust rule of an alien Sovereign. It is, therefore, extremely desirable that India should make Japan her ideal, and try to imitate her. And so long as the Indians will not be able to reflect on what Japan has done and adopt remedial measures accordingly, their poverty will not be removed. Unless such suitable reforms as are required by the present times are introduced into Indian society, there is no hope of improvement for the people. Why will not the Bengalis, aided by the rest of the Indians, be able to do what the inhabitants of a small island like Japan have done? In comparison the Indians may be at present inferior to the Japanese, but who can say that they shall not achieve success if they follow the path shown by the latter? The Indians should therefore try their best to improve themselves and remove the distress of the mother-country. "We have every hope that if we try we shall succeed. And what harm if we fail after making honest endeavours for success?"

50. The *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 16th June publishes an appeal from the promoters of the Bengal Steam Navigation Company, Limited, Rangoon, to the Hindu and Musalman public of Bengal to take up shares in the above Company. It is claimed that by subscribing to this Company, the subscribers will add both to their personal and national wealth as well as to their national prestige, and will further save themselves and their fellow-countrymen from the harassment and oppression to which they are at present subjected at the hands of the existing Steamer Companies managed by foreigners.

SOLTAN,
June 16th, 1905

51. Referring to the resolution demanding Lord Curzon's recall, which was passed at the late protest meeting held in London under the leadership of Messrs. Naoroji and Bonnerjee, the *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 17th June writes:—

RATNAKAR,
June 17th, 1905.

We cannot say much of the sense of those who expect that the authorities will remove Lord Curzon from his office, because he oppresses the people of India and the people of India pray for his removal. Lord Curzon is a favourite with the Home Government. And it is because he was expected to oppress the Indians vigorously and well that he was sent out by that Government with an extended term of office. Is it not a matter of the greatest wonder that these patriotic Indians, capable men as they are, should make such incongruous appeals to the British Government?

52. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th June observes as follows:—
Considering our different relations with our Moslem and our English rulers we expect our improvement to be greater under the rule of the latter than it was under the rule of the former. It was in his career of universal conquest that the Moslem conqueror entered India, sword in hand, and had to win every inch of ground, at the cost of his heart's-blood, against the stubborn opposition of the natives of the soil. It is no wonder therefore that the Moslem, when at last master of India, should be animated by vindictive feelings against the Indian. But it is far otherwise with the English ruler, who came to India in the guise of a merchant and never dreamt of dominion till a few leading men in Bengal invited him to aid them in throwing off the yoke of a tyrant. It was not without fear and hesitation that the English ruler accepted this invitation, for his power was but small at that time. Relying upon the promise of aid made by the Bengali he fought at Plassey and it was with the Bengali's aid that he conquered there and thereby laid the foundations of British rule in India. To conquer India, or, at any rate, Bengal, the English ruler had not to unsheathe the sword. At the invitation of the Bengali, he occupied the throne of Bengal without bloodshed. Ignorant of the language of the country and totally unacquainted with its system of administration, he at first relied, at every step, upon the help of the Bengali in the work of administration. The relation between the Bengali and the English ruler, at that time, was therefore that between friend and friend, and not that between the ruler and the ruled.

DAILY HITAVADI,
June 19th, 1905.

But as soon as the English ruler was master of the situation he showed himself in his true colours. The East India Company plundered Bengal, as it were, with both hands. Its oppressions destroyed the trade and commerce of the country. Though ruler of the country, the English set about promoting

their own interests in utter disregard of the interests of the land subject to their rule. All the high offices under the State became the monopoly of Englishmen. Many comment unfavourably upon the rule of Aurangzebe because of his having appointed Hindus to only six per cent. of the high offices of State. But our friends, the English, appoint Indians to only five in every two hundred of the high offices of State and have never appointed an Indian as a Commander or a Governor.

Many Englishmen explain the difference of treatment of Hindus under Musalman and British rule by the fact that they proved themselves highly patriotic and religious in their first contract with the Musalman ruler, whereas it was in the character of traitors to their country that they first became known to the English ruler.

When the ruler or his officers turn oppressive the subject people generally take up arms against them. America, which is now a model to the Western world in every respect, rebelled against England. But should the Americans be called traitors for that reason? Any act which has for its object the welfare of the country, cannot be called treacherous even if aimed against the sovereign power. The action of Maharaja Krishna Chandra and his fellow-conspirators cannot therefore be called treacherous.

The English who came to our country in the guise of friends have behaved towards us in a way in which even enemies, not to speak of friends, would shrink from behaving. They have appropriated to themselves everything in the country and thereby reduced us to a state of entire dependence. No civilized people ought to utterly impoverish, enfeeble and wear out, in the course of a century and a half, a country once every way so civilized and eminent. But the English hold that to be right in India which every other civilized people hold to be wrong. This is no figment of our brain. This is a fact which is admitted even by many eminent English writers.

Many Englishmen say at present that the Musalman emperors had brought India to the extreme verge of ruin and it was the English who, on their coming, rescued the unfortunate country from that ruin. It is for Musalman writers to contradict this statement. What we see is that, under Musalman rule, rice sold at 4 or 5 maunds per rupee, that the people were strong and long-lived, that they could use arms at will to defend themselves against thieves and dacoits, that natives were appointed to high offices of State, that there were no frequent famines, that the cost of litigation was not so ruinous and the litigious spirit far less strong. The direct reverse of this is the rule under the British administration. But, then, education has spread under British rule, and as a result of this spread of education polygamy and like social evils have disappeared. Under Musalman rule, however, people trusted one another and lent and borrowed lakhs of rupees with no other witness to the transaction than the God in heaven. Now we do not trust others, we do not even trust ourselves. Again, drunkenness was not so prevalent in the days of the Musalmans as it is now. Which then shall we call days of downfall—the present or the past?

URIYA PAPERS.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
June 8th, 1905.

The rainfall.

53. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 8th June states that the rainfall in the last week was not sufficient.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.

Eye-disease in Balasore.

54. The same paper states that eye-disease prevails in the Balasore district.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.

Cholera in Mayurbhanj.

55. The Mayurbhanj correspondent of the same paper says that cholera has abated in Baripada in that State.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.

56. The same correspondent states that there was a heavy shower of rain, accompanied with a violent storm, in that State in the last week.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.

57. The same paper suggests the necessity of establishing a paddy godown in the centre of a cluster of villages to be treated as a unit for the administration of the godown on principles somewhat similar to those advocated by the Co-operative

Credit Societies in Bengal. The proposed reserve stock of paddy is calculated to expand in the course of time, protecting peasants of the unit from the effects of famine on the one hand and husbanding their resources on the other.

58. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 7th June joins its contemporary of the *Utkaldipika* in raising its voice against the attempt of the Puri Municipality to occupy the *dharmasala* on the Baradanda in the Puri town by unlawful means, and requests the Commissioner of Orissa to restore the *dharmasala* to its former position.

An alleged unlawful action of the Puri Municipality.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
June 7th, 1905.

59. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 10th June states that the temperature rose a little higher in the last week and that the cultivators are in anxious expectation of rain.

UTKALDIPIKA,
June 10th, 1905.

The weather.

The health of Cuttack town.

60. The same paper says that the general health of Cuttack town is good.

UTKALDIPIKA.

The health of Puri town.

61. The Puri correspondent of the same paper says that the health of Puri town is good.

UTKALDIPIKA.

62. The Jajpur correspondent of the same paper says that the temperature is so high that the weather is simply unbearable, and that unless it rains soon, the sufferings of the people will be very great.

UTKALDIPIKA.

The weather in Jajpur.

63. Referring to the attempt of the India Government to acquire a certain number of valuable buildings around the Government House in Calcutta, the same paper admits the necessity of amending the Land Acquisition Act on a certain fixed line.

UTKALDIPIKA.

Some recent cases of land acquisition by Government in Calcutta.

64. Referring to the new scheme sanctioned for adoption in the Registration Department, the same paper points out that the scale of pay sanctioned for the clerk and muharrir of the Sub-Registrar is not at all satisfactory and needs revision.

UTKALDIPIKA.

The reorganization of the Registration Department.

65. The *Star of Utkal* [Cuttack] of the 10th June states that the Raja of Talcher is taking steps to manufacture palm-sugar and thereby open a new industry in that State.

STAR OF UTKAL,
June 10th, 1905.

Manufacture of palm-sugar in Talcher.

The health of Talcher.

66. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 10th June states that the general health of Talcher is good.

GARJATBASINI,
June 10th, 1905.

67. The same paper says that regular rainfall has enabled cultivators in that State to sow paddy seeds in time, and hopes for a bumper harvest, provided the rain continues to fall regularly till the end of the agricultural year.

GARJATBASINI.

The crops in Talcher.

68. The same paper complains of the insufficient supply of one pice postage stamps and draws the attention of the Postal authorities to the same.

GARJATBASINI.

A postal complaint.

ASSAM PAPERS.

69. The *Paridarsak* [Sylhet] of the 15th June complains that Mr. Bomford, the Manager of the Pipalagol tea estate, is in the habit of sending for any man passing on the public street in front of his bungalow with an umbrella over his head and often of giving him a whipping.

PARIDARSAK,
June 15th, 1905.

An allegation against a tea-garden Manager.

70. The same paper hears that while the authorities seem well-disposed enough to prevent the health of the prisoners at the Sylhet Jail suffering from overwork at the oil-press, the jailor is reported to be putting an undue strain on these prisoners by continuing their work at the press so late as seven in the evening.

PARIDARSAK.

An allegation against the jailor of the Sylhet Jail.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 24th June 1905.

B. S. Press—32044—78—29.6.1905—C. W.

REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 24th June 1905.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

794. Discussing the effect the Japanese victories are likely to have upon the temper of the Indian people, the *Bengalee* writes that there can be no doubt that the entire

Japan and India.

Asiatic world has watched the famous Eastern campaign with thrilling interest. For the first time in the history of modern times has Asia triumphed over Europe; thereby vindicating the equality of the Oriental and the Westerner, and establishing the mythical character of occidental supremacy. The Japanese successes have not only raised the Eastern peoples in the eyes of the world, but have evoked a pan-Asiatic feeling which India shares to the fullest extent. The immense popular enthusiasm displayed in regard to home affairs affords abundant proof of this new-born spirit which is striving to bring the reactionary Government of this country within the sphere of popular control. These are clear indications of the great Eastern revival.

BENGALIEE,
14th June 1905.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

795. *Power and Guardian's* worst apprehensions have been realised in the appointments recently made of Inspectors of Police.

Appointments as Inspectors of Police.

There were 293 applications received from Indians for 24 Inspectorships, in response to a notice over the signature of the Inspector-General of Police, and out of this colossal number, only 4 Indians have been appointed, the remaining appointments being set apart for Europeans and Eurasians. Such an arrangement would have been excusable if, by the exclusion of educated and competent Indians, the efficiency of the Police Department would be promoted, but as the pay offered is likely to attract only the lower class of Europeans, Government can have no justification whatever in perpetrating this unwarrantable piece of injustice. The journal demands the publication of the qualifications of the "poor whites" who have been given berths in the Police Department, and exhorts all sections of the Press to join hands in the name of equity and efficiency and protest against this jobbery.

POWER AND
GUARDIAN,
11th June 1905.

796. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* Bankipur correspondent writes that a dismissed servant was lately charged with the

The Patna police.

theft of a copy of *Madhabilata* belonging to the Bankipur Book Club. When questioned by the police the man stated that the book belonged to his former master, who purchased it in Calcutta and gave it to him to read. Although the Pirbahore police learnt on enquiry that this was not the case, and that the servant had endeavoured to sell the book, the case was hushed up on the plea of "mistake of fact."

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
13th June 1905.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

797. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* cites the case of Lieutenant Ford of the Welsh Fusiliers to show how European Magistrates allow social and racial ties to influence them in their judicial capacity.

Lieutenant Ford's case.

From Lieutenant Ford's original statement it appears that he went into a shop owned by the accused, Badri Persad, and bought a painting valued at Rs. 6, telling the man to send the bill to his bungalow for payment. But, he alleges before he left the shop with his purchase, the accused rushed at him, caught hold of his arm, and abused him. The shop-keeper's version of the story is that the officer lost his temper because he was refused credit, and, in addition to breaking a glass case and a frame, assaulted one Manna Lal, an assistant of Badri Persad's. While this statement is corroborated by two or three witnesses, the complainant's version is unsupported and contradictory on salient points, but nevertheless the trying Magistrate "unhesitatingly" accepts the complainant's version as substantially correct, and concludes his judgment thus:—"The accused is a man who pays over Rs. 200 income-tax and is a well-to-do man. A small fine will obviously not affect him. I convict Badri Persad . . . and

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
10th June 1905.

sentence him to rigorous imprisonment for ten days and a fine of Rs. 100." Thus the accused was punished simply on the ground that he was a rich man, and on the bare statement of the complainant. The *Patrika*, however, attributes this judicial feat to a private letter which was written to the trying Magistrate by Lieutenant Ford's superior officer, who almost insisted on the shop-keeper being punished in an exemplary manner. Is this the way in which British justice is administered?

BENGALUR,
13th June 1905.

798. The *Bengalee* writes that Mr. Ommaney, Extra Assistant Commissioner, South Sylhet, appears to be the chartered libertine of the Assam Commission. He comes to office at 12 o'clock and leaves at 2, returning a couple of hours after to hurriedly dispose of the cases on his file. As his judgments are seldom upheld by the Appellate Court, the punishment of whipping, being irrevocable, is very frequently resorted to by him. One Asad Bania was recently sentenced to thirty stripes, but the medical officer certified that the man was in such poor health that he would not be able to stand more than twenty. After the infliction of eleven stripes, the man lay insensible, and in lieu of the rest of the sentence of whipping he was ordered to undergo three months' imprisonment, two of which were to be solitary confinement! In the case of Banka Behari Sarma *versus* Kamini Mohan Shoma and others, the Sessions Judge has given this merciless Magistrate a very poor certificate indeed, and it is earnestly hoped that the Chief Commissioner will keep a vigilant eye on his wayward subordinate.

(d)—Education.

POWER AND
GUARDIAN,
11th June 1905.

799. *Power and Guardian* writes that as the Higher English School, Narainganj, was situated in a locality that was undesirable both on moral and sanitary grounds, the School Committee decided to remove the school and raised subscriptions with a view to buying land in a suitable part of the town. When this had been done Mr. Rankin, the Collector of Dacca, insisted upon the Committee selling the land and devoting the money to the construction of a *pucca* building. At this juncture the matter was referred to the Commissioner. The journal considers that Mr. Rankin should have remembered that it was on the clear understanding that the money raised would be utilised in purchasing land for the construction of a new building in a suitable part of the town that people subscribed to the fund. If the Committee were to adopt any other course it would amount to a distinct breach of faith, and in these circumstances the stubborn attitude taken up by Mr. Rankin is quite inexplicable.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
4th June 1905.

800. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is sorry that a public meeting was held at Bankipur in aid of the Ranchi College. This so-called public meeting was attended by the high officials of the town, who took an active part in it, with the result that even the estates of Government wards were made to contribute to the college fund. The public will thus naturally feel that not only was the movement official, but official influence was exercised to raise money. It is a pity that Sir Andrew Fraser has not yet realised that no public sympathy is felt for his great scheme and that meetings of this nature are likely to prove harmful to the project.

INDIAN MIRROR,
16th June 1905.

801. The *Indian Mirror* bestows unstinted praise on the project for establishing a hostel for Indian boys at Darjeeling, and is confident that every public-spirited man in the province will come forward to support the scheme and help to subscribe the amount that will be required. This institution will be for Indian school-boys what the Ranchi College is intended to be for graduates and undergraduates, and is therefore deserving of liberal support.

(c)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

BIHAR HERALD,
3rd June 1905.

802. The *Behar Herald* writes that whenever any improvement of the town is suggested by the Sanitary Commissioner or the rate-payers, the proposal is invariably met with the cry of 'no funds.' The cause of this chronic state of financial stagnation, continues the journal, is to be found in the reckless extravagance that has always characterised the administration of the Patna Municipality. With a little larger income the Dacca Municipality is able to maintain a system of electric-lighting and well-regulated water-works, whereas the Patna Municipality can barely afford to keep its roads in proper repair. On comparing the expenditure incurred by both Municipalities during the year 1902-1903, it is found that while Dacca spent Rs. 16,475 or 7.99 per cent. on account of general administration and collection charges, Patna spent Rs. 22,076 or 10.92 per cent. The Dacca Municipality had to spend only Rs. 6,828 or 4.47 per cent. in realising taxes to the amount of Rs. 1,52,776, while the Patna Municipality spent Rs. 9,034 or 6.50 per cent. in collecting Rs. 1,38,876. The printing establishment of the Patna Municipality cost Rs. 1,580, while Dacca spent Rs. 949 only on this head. These figures prove conclusively that reduction must be effected wherever possible if the Municipality is to be of any practical use to the people. Then, again, there is absolutely no use in employing an assessor permanently when his services are required once in five years, while adequate reduction in the office establishment would enable the Municipality to increase their menial establishment. These are important points and deserve immediate and serious attention.

803. *Truth* writes that the Howrah cattle-shed is in a very dilapidated and insanitary condition. In the first place, a corrugated shed should be raised in place of the present thatched structure. This would not only obviate the constant expenditure that is being undertaken to keep the shed in repair, but also provide the animals with more satisfactory accommodation. They would thus enjoy better health and be able to work for a longer period. This means a saving to the Municipality, and the suggestion should therefore receive the earnest attention of the District Engineer.

TRUTH,
5th June 1905.

804. *Truth* asks the Chairman of the Howrah Municipality to call for a statement of the tanks in the several wards of the town, and to judge for himself to what extent they must be vitiating the public health. In Ward No. IX there are 276 tanks, out of which 228 are reported to be bad, and in Ward No. X, out of 250 tanks, only 6 are reported to be in a good condition! The journal suggests that the owners of the condemned tanks should be made to fill them up without delay.

TRUTH,
5th June 1905.

805. As far as the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is aware, the impression in the public mind is that the Government are going to introduce the Borough system of municipal administration in name only, for how can authority be decentralised and the services of the rate-payers utilised in the management of their own affairs so long as the Mackenzie Act, which has completely officialised the Corporation, is in force? The first step is to place this body on a popular basis, for then will the decentralisation of authority prove a real blessing. Under existing conditions, the establishment of the Borough system would result in the creation of a few more official bodies subordinate to the Corporation, and this is by no means to be devoutly wished for.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
10th June 1905.

806. The avowed object of the Borough Councils, writes *Power and Guardian*, is to teach the rate-payers to conduct their own municipal affairs, but the real object is to divert their attention from the Corporation and its vagaries. In the face of the bitter lesson taught by the condemned Mackenzie Act, how can the authorities expect the townspeople to have any faith in their so-called municipal reforms? This Act was supposed to wash away the iniquities of the old Corporation and to establish an ideal form of municipal government, but events have shown how far this has been achieved. The Conservancy Department, which is directly under the Chairman, is worse than useless, and hence the sanitation of the town,

POWER AND
GUARDIAN,
13th June 1905

which is to a large extent dependent on the efficiency of this Department, leaves much to be desired. These are the only grounds on which the usefulness of a municipal body can be determined, and it is on these grounds that the present Corporation must be unreservedly condemned.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
13th June 1905.

807. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* Bankipur correspondent complains that absolutely no steps are taken to prevent people from committing a nuisance in public thoroughfares.

A nuisance.

This is especially the case in the vicinity of the Girls' High School near Kankerbag, and the police should take prompt measures to put a stop to this highly objectionable practice, which is likely to prove a serious menace to the public health. The municipal authorities should likewise issue strict injunctions that the refuse of the town should not be deposited in the neighbourhood of this educational institution, as is being done at present.

BENGALIEE,
13th June 1905.

808. The *Bengalee* writes that the Dalhousie Square controversy which is raging in the columns of the Anglo-Indian Press, centres round the demolition of the "barn-like structure" known as the Dalhousie Institute and so

The Dalhousie Square controversy.

the Indian community can have no interest in it. What they protest against, however, is expenditure of public funds on a perfectly useless project. Do not the authorities know that there are tens of thousands in the interior of Bengal who are suffering acutely from water-scarcity, and is it not the bounden duty of Government to alleviate their suffering before they fritter away the money of the people on frivolous objects?

POWER AND
GUARDIAN,
18th June 1905.

809. *Power and Guardian* considers that the demolition of the Dalhousie Institute, which is being seriously contemplated in connection with the improvement of the Square,

Ibid.

would be a great loss to the Anglo-Indian mercantile community, and it is therefore hardly to be wondered at that a determined opposition will be made. As for the Indian community, they are hardly interested in the affair. They are simply counting the number of times the Government "climb down" before European opposition.

BENGALIEE,
15th June 1905.

810. The *Bengalee* insists that the highly insanitary condition of Ward No. 22 is chiefly, if not solely, attributable to culpable neglect on the part of the municipal staff.

Matters municipal.

For weeks there has been a suspension of all conservancy arrangements, and houses where fatal cases of plague had occurred were not disinfected as promptly as they ought to have been. In despair the rate-payers submitted a petition to the Chairman, setting forth their grievances, and it is earnestly hoped that they will soon be remedied.

The journal observes with regret that the conservancy arrangements in the Northern Division of the town have for some time past been even more unsatisfactory than is usually the case, which is saying a great deal. Many of the thoroughfares which used to be watered before are no longer watered—notably, the river bank between Bagbazar and the Howrah Bridge. As this spot is the favourite resort of Indians of an evening, the municipal executive should bestow more attention on it than they are doing at present.

BENGALIEE,
16th June 1905.

811. The *Bengalee's* Santipur correspondent writes that the people are as usual suffering from the scarcity of good drinking water. There, however, seems to be some prospect

Water-scarcity in Santipur.

of relief, as two or three old tanks are being re-excavated by their owners. The writer considers that the municipal authorities have committed a blunder by sinking three wells along the Victoria Road, as, in the first place, people prefer tank or river water, and secondly, every family has a well of its own. It is believed that these wells will be used for watering the roads, but considering that of the 20 miles of metalled roads in the town, only about half-a-mile is likely to be watered in this way, the sums sanctioned for the sinking of these wells would have been better employed in supplying the more urgent wants of the rate-payers of Santipur.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

TRUTH,
5th June 1905.

812. *Truth* draws the attention of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway authorities to the great difficulty experienced by merchants

The Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

in procuring wagons, which is got over only by giving the low-paid Station Masters adequate remuneration. The journal hopes

that the Traffic Manager will look into this matter and keep a vigilant eye on his subordinates.

The absence of a goods shed is also acutely felt, as thefts are being committed almost daily. The sheds at Shalimar have no enclosure whatsoever, and hence the public have free access to them. This should be remedied without delay, and the road leading to them should be broadened as, with a further increase in the traffic, it is likely to be blocked.

813. The *Indian Mirror* hopes that the Railway Board will, when they visit the metropolis during their coming monsoon tour, inquire into the complaints and grievances of

The Railway Board.

Indian railway passengers, more especially the third-class passengers who constitute the bulk of the travelling public. The people entertain great hopes that the Board will satisfactorily discharge the duties that have devolved upon it, and it is earnestly hoped that the treatment of Indians on railways, which is one of the burning questions of the day, will be happily solved.

INDIAN MIRROR,
6th June 1905.

814. The *Bengalee* is sorry to find that the East Indian Railway, once so famous for its punctuality in the running of trains, has deteriorated into a most disorganised railway as regards train service. The most important trains, not excepting even the mail, almost invariably arrive late and thus put the travelling public to considerable inconvenience. In the fruit season trains do not generally run to time in order to deliver and entrain the fruit traffic, but the question that recurs is, why cannot the authorities put their fast good trains on to cope with this excessive traffic and thus free the passenger traffic from innumerable inconveniences? Surely with the annual multiplication of officers more attention should be paid to the convenience of the public? In conclusion, the *Bengalee* observes that since the separation of the commercial and passenger departments of the district offices of the Railway, there has been a distinct falling off in the train service.

BENGALÉE,
17th May 1905.

(h)—General.

815. In a lengthy article the *Indian Mirror* eulogises Sir Andrew Fraser for making an example of Mr. Carey and hopes that the severity of the punishment inflicted on this wayward Magistrate will have a deterrent effect on his brother officers who, owing to the leniency with which they were treated by the late Sir John Woodburn, are somewhat inclined to carry things with a high hand. In doing so they not only mar their good name, but bring discredit on the service to which they belong, and hence Sir Andrew Fraser was quite justified in taking matters severely in hand. In punishing Mr. Carey, His Honour has clearly belied the imputation that he is quite indifferent to public opinion.

INDIAN MIRROR,
6th June 1905.

816. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* Hazaribagh correspondent writes that the Judicial Commissioner has, on the application of the Deputy Commissioner, issued a commission to the Munsif of Giridih under the provisions of the Lunacy Act to enquire into and report upon the alleged incapacity of Raja Sarada Narayan Singh of Gusi Suainpur to administer his own estate. The Raja, who is admittedly the most enlightened zamindar in the subdivision of Giridih, stoutly maintains that he is as sane as his accusers, and is doing his best to frustrate this attempt to deprive him of the control of his zamindari. The avowed object of the application is to place the Raja's estate in the hands of the Court of Wards, and the case is causing the greatest possible sensation locally, more especially as the Raja is held in great esteem by the public.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA.
14th June 1905.

817. The *Bengalee* is deeply grateful to Sir Andrew Fraser for transferring Mr. B. N. De from Malda, the smallest district in the province, to Hooghly, the most important, and appointing him to officiate as Commissioner of the Burdwan Division. The claims of no officer have been so studiously overlooked by a succession of Lieutenant-Governors, and it must be owned that Sir Andrew has done Mr. De a bare act of justice in giving him what was his due.

BENGALÉE,
16th June 1905.

POWER AND
GUARDIAN,
18th June 1905.

818. *Power and Guardian* is surprised beyond measure at the unjust decision of the Bengal Government to saddle the Indian tax-payer with the onus of paying Mr. Rolt his compensation of Rs. 15,000 in spite of the fact that it was the Board of Revenue and not the public who was directly responsible for his unjustifiable prosecution. It is thus quite indefensible that the amount should be paid from the public exchequer.

The journal characterises the arrangement by which the Khagra Estate is to pay Mr. Rolt his salary for six months, the money to be paid when the minor proprietors attain their majority in February next, as equally unjust, since they had absolutely nothing to do with his appointment, suspension, prosecution, and dismissal. Had the wishes of the minors been consulted, it would have been quite a different matter. Then, again, why should the money be paid when the minors attain their majority? This point seems ridiculous and needs explanation.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

INDIAN MIRROR,
15th June 1905.

819. The *Indian Mirror* writes that the somewhat protracted drought in Bengal has considerably darkened the agricultural outlook, and the *bhadoi* crop on which the raiyat depends for his annual provision of paddy and for enabling him to pay his half-yearly rents seems doomed. The Bengal villager has therefore a gloomy prospect before him. There is also widespread water-scarcity, and it is quite possible that cholera will soon break out in an epidemic form. The attention both of Government and the landlords has been repeatedly drawn to this vital question, but with no appreciably good results.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

BENGALIEE,
11th June 1905.

820. The *Bengalee* welcomes the proposal to establish a Property Defence Association, as what with the severity of the Building regulations, the rapacity of the Municipal Assessor's Department, and the inquisitorial character of land acquisition proceedings, a house owner considers himself very fortunate if he can get a return of 4½ per cent. on the capital he has invested in house property in Calcutta or its suburbs. The union of the European and Indian sections of the community in regard to this matter almost guarantees the success of the movement, and the journal has no doubt that, under able guidance, the proposed Association will soon acquire sufficient prestige and power to secure a prompt redress of the grievances of landed proprietors.

BENGALIEE,
11th June 1905.

821. The *Bengalee* approves of the decision of the Government of India to establish at Kasauli a Central Research Institute for the study of the etiology and nature of the diseases which have been decimating the Indian people. Such an institution will not only enable Indian officers to study these diseases, but is also likely to attract scientists of European fame. How pitiful it is that the Government should have hitherto done so little in this direction, but now that it has made a beginning officials and non-officials, both European and Indian, should be given equal facilities for prosecuting their scientific labours in the interest of suffering humanity.

AMRITA BASAR
PATRIKA,
12th June 1905.

822. In spite of the further confirmation it has received from the *Star*, the leading organ of the Liberals, regarding the alleged raid of the 9th Lancers, the *Amrita Basar Patrika* still believes in the mythical character of the occurrence for the following reasons. In the first place, in India a European, however insignificant, cannot be murdered by an Indian without the whole country being set topsy-turvy; but so far no one appears to be a bit the worse. Secondly, an Indian accused of so serious a crime as murder is never released on bail, and certainly not on a bail of only Rs. 200. Thirdly, a "native" charged with the murder of a European is never allowed to escape through negligence, as it is alleged was the case in the incident under notice. On the

other hand, the story cannot be regarded as a pure fabrication and one fact stands out prominently, namely, that it is going the round of the English Press without being contradicted. The *Patrika* considers that the Government should be called upon to make an authoritative pronouncement on the subject.

BENGAL, 15th June 1905.

823. The *Bengalee* writes that the celebration that was held in Tokio in honour of the memory of the great Indian leader, Sivaji, partook of the nature of a pan-Asiatic demonstration. The journal hopes that it may prove the forerunner of similar demonstrations, "so that all Asia might realise its high destiny and wake up to the fulfilment of its great mission, which is to give to humanity a civilisation that will combine the materialism of the West with the higher ethical conceptions and the spiritual life of the East."

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENL.
OF POLICE, L. P.

WRITERS' BUILDINGS,

The 24th June 1905.

F. C. DALY,

Asst. to the Insp.-Genl. of Police, L. P.